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Prologue

I don't own any original characters or Clans. Please enjoy, warriors fans.

PROLOGUE

As a kit, my mother, Princess, often told me the story of my uncle, Firestar. And she'd always start with the same introduction, "Once, where those stone nests down the Thunderpath are, there was a forest."

I was one of Princess's second litter with her mate, Mountain. I was the firstborn, and Princess named me Flame, after my uncle, Firestar. Coincidentally, my housefolk named me Flame too. Princess said my ginger fur was almost identical to Firestar's.

I clearly remember the day my mother said, "Kittens, you must leave me now. You will live with new housefolk and you must do what they say to do. If you do what they tell you to do, you will live a good life like me."

A bunch of Twolegs showed up and looked at us. A kit with bright red head fur pointed his big clumsy paw at me and said, "Daddy, I want him. I'll name him Flame." His father, a tall Twoleg with no head fur, said, "Let's look at the other kittens first."

They were back soon. They gave Princess's housefolk a few flat green things and golden circles, and then they came and picked me up. They carried me out of the nest, and into a monster that was parked at the edge of the Thunderpath. The kit pulled on something and a piece of the monster's belly popped out. The kit carried me inside and sat down on the leather seats. It was a short ride to their nest. "Who did you pick, Andrew?" a female Twoleg with dark brown hair asked.

"Him, Mommy," the kit said, handing me to the female Twoleg. "I named him Flame."

I got used to life with them. I loved it when the kit threw a ball for me in the yard. I loved chasing the red dot, but it always seemed to disappear whenever I was about to catch it.

It was a normal night when I curled up in my bed in their kitchen. The collar was unusually itchy, so I managed to push it off my head. Feeling better, I fell asleep.

I was surrounded by cats who seemed to be made of stars. A flame colored cat stepped forward. “Greetings, nephew,” he meowed.

“Who are you?” I asked the flame colored tom.

“These are the ancestors of the four Clans. We are called StarClan. I am Firestar, your uncle,” he meowed.

“You’re Firestar? Wow!” I said, excited to meet my uncle at last.

“You must leave your Twolegs and find the fifth Clan called SkyClan. You are destined to become their leader if you make it,” Firestar said.

“Leave? Where do I go?” I asked.

“Head in the direction where the sun sets. A raven will show you the way,” Firestar said.

The starry cats faded and I woke up in the harsh unnatural light of the kitchen.

Chapter 1

Chapter 1

I walked silently past where the big male Twoleg was staring at the color box. The Twoleg paid me no attention because he was too busy screaming something at the color box. He was on his feet, red-faced and hollering.

I walked past the room where the Twolegs slept. Inside the room, the female was chatting with someone who was inside the talk-stick. I crept through the hallway until I reached the door. Standing on my hind legs, I pushed down on the door handle with my front paws, and the door opened. I stepped out into the sweet-smelling garden, and stopped at the edge of the Thunderpath. After looking both ways to make sure that there were no monsters coming, I darted across to the other side. I walked through the endless pathways of stone nests, crossing Thunderpaths and avoiding sleeping monsters. I heard a strange beeping sound, and I walked towards it. The nests finally ended, and a huge stretch of dirt was in front of me. Huge yellow monsters crept forward, kicking up more dirt with their front paws. “Am I going the right way?” I asked myself.

I was heading towards the setting sun. I had to make it through the stretch of dirt. Darting forward, I raced onwards, not knowing where I was going or where the dirt ended. A monster was bearing down on me. I ran as fast as I could, but the monster was faster. Just when I thought I was about to die, the monster turned around and starting racing in the other direction. That was too close for my liking. As the sun had almost dipped below the horizon, I saw a huge barn in the distance. I could stop there for the night, and keep traveling tomorrow.

When I reached it, I felt like my paws were about to fall off. I padded exhaustedly through the door and collapsed onto the hay. I heard soft pawsteps behind me and I lifted my head. I saw a cat leaping through the air towards me. Its sharp claws dug into

my fur and it held me on the ground. He sniffed my fur. “Kittypet,” it meowed distastefully, releasing me. “Go back to your Twolegs and stay there.”

“You can’t send me back to my Twolegs!” I wailed. “I was sent by Firestar!”

The cat’s amber eyes stared at me intensely. “Firestar! How do you know Firestar, kittypet?” it asked.

“He spoke to me in a dream. He’s my uncle!” I answered.

“Your uncle,” the cat murmured thoughtfully. “Firestar and I were once denmates.”

“So you’ll let me stay?” I asked hopefully.

“If you tell me where you’re going,” it said. “I am Ravenpaw, by the way.”

“I am Flame,” I said. “Firestar said that I should find SkyClan and live with them.”

“SkyClan,” Ravenpaw whispered. “Go to your right until you reach a Twolegplace. Follow the stream and you will find SkyClan.”

“Thank you,” I meowed.

“I will bring you a few mice and you can leave in the morning,” Ravenpaw said.

He came back with two plump mice and he dropped them by my paws. “Thanks again,” I said.

The raven had shown me the way.

Chapter 2

Chapter 2

I continued on my long journey the next day. I walked in the direction Ravenpaw had told me to go, but an obstacle soon blocked my path. A huge wall made of smooth white stone stood in front of me. It was obviously made by Twolegs, who seemed to find some way to try to stop me every way I turned.

I looked to see where the wall ended, but it seemed to stretch forever. I sank my claws into the ground, frustrated, and I noticed a small hole in the wall slightly to my left. I wiggled through it and on the other side, I saw a huge forest. I was about to run into it when I heard something yap behind me.

When I turned around, I saw a big black and white dog. Its teeth were bared and it stood on the top of the wall, ready to fight. It leaped down on top of me and I pummeled its belly with my paws in an ineffective try to get it off of me. Its jaws were wide open with slobber dripping out of them and onto my nose. It was about to kill me with a blow to my neck when something suddenly dragged it off of me. Three big cats dragged the dog off of me and two more leaped out of the bushes. They pushed the dog back towards the wall, scraping sharp claws over its muzzle. Whining, the dog took a massive leap over the wall and disappeared.

“Thanks!” I said to my rescuers.

“We couldn’t let another cat be hurt by the dog,” a big black tom said. “I’m Night, by the way.”

“I’m Frost,” a white she-cat meowed.

“I’m Wind,” a brown tom meowed.

“I’m Leaf,” a ginger she-cat said.

“And I’m Gray,” a silver and white tom said.

“I am Flame,” I introduced myself.

“Flame,” Night said. “Would you like to stay with us for a few nights.”

“Sure!” I said without hesitation.

“Night,” Frost said. “We need to ask Sky first.”

I gave them a quizzical look. “Sky is our leader,” Gray explained. “She’s a black and white she-cat.”

I nodded. “Come,” Night said. “We’ll take you to our camp.”

I padded after them, ready to meet their leader.

Chapter 3

CHAPTER 3

They led me along the wall until I thought my paws were going to fall off. It was nearly sundown when they stopped and dragged a wooden Twoleg thing off to the side. It revealed a tunnel that led underground and Night crept into it. “Go on,” Leaf whispered in my ear.

I slid down after Night, and soon my paws hit the ground. It was made of a hard stone. I couldn’t see anything in the dark. “Night! Leaf! Gray! Frost! Wind!” I called.

I heard a thud behind me and smelled Leaf. “Shh!” she meowed. “Follow Night’s scent.”

I pressed my nose against the ground. Night’s scent led forward for a while, and then abruptly curved to the right in a half-circle. It led left, and then right until finally I detected light ahead. I stepped into it and looked up. A huge circle in the roof way above my head let in warm sunlight. I heard the questioning meows of cats and I saw many cats lying in the sunlight. “Night, who have you brought into our camp?” a black and white she-cat who was probably Sky asked.

“We found him on our territory, Sky,” Night answered.

“Who are you?” Sky asked me.

“I am Flame, and I am traveling on a long journey to find SkyClan,” I told Sky.

“He wishes to stay with us for a few nights,” Night said.

“Is he alone?” she asked.

“Yes,” Night said.

“Then he may stay,” Sky said. “Flame, welcome to the SunCats Pack.”

“Thank you, Sky,” I said. “Where may I sleep?”

“Come,” she said.

Sky led me out of the sunlight and into a small cave in the wall. She gestured with her tail to a small nest filled with soft moss. “Thanks,” I meowed gratefully, stifling a yawn.

“Rest,” Sky said. “Tomorrow, you will start your training.”

Chapter 4

CHAPTER 4

"River," Sky said to an old white tom. "Will you tell Flame our history?"

"Fine," River said. "Once, there were three Packs. There were us, RedCats Pack, and TreeCats Pack. We lived beyond that wall up there, until a bunch of rogues drove us out. They eventually formed five Clans; SkyClan, ThunderClan, WindClan, RiverClan, and ShadowClan. SkyClan was driven out of their homes when the no-tails built their dens."

"No-tails?" I interrupted. "What are no-tails?"

"Tall pink creatures that walk on two legs," River answered.

"Oh, you mean Twolegs," I said.

"Anyways," the old tom continued. "They asked us to give us some of our territory. And we refused saying, 'You once drove us out. We will do the same to you.' They turned around and left our territory. Stay here. Don't join SkyClan."

"Just tell me more about your Pack," I meowed, shifting uncomfortably.

"Our leader gets nine lives. The leader receives their nine lives by going to The Stream of Shining Starlight. Our ancestors are called the FreeCats Pack and they are the ones who give our leader their nine lives. Our herb cat goes to the stream to receive signs from the FreeCats," River meowed.

"Thanks, River," Sky said from behind Flame. "Now, we'll teach you to hunt."

"Am I the only one who slept in that cave last night?"

Flame asked.

"No, that's where the trainees sleep. I let you sleep extra today because you looked exhausted, so that's why no one was there when you woke up. We are training our trainees to become soldiers. I'll be your teacher. There is Cream," Sky said, pointing to a white tom. "He's our Second, and he'll become leader when I lose my final life."

"We'll go on a hunting patrol with Night and Leaf, and we can take Berry with us. She's Leaf's trainee," Sky meowed.

"Night! Leaf!" Sky called. "Come with us to hunt! Leaf, could you bring Berry too?"

"Sure," Leaf said, trotting off.

A few moments later, she returned with a brown and white she-cat with sparkling yellow eyes. "Hi!" Berry said happily. "You're the new trainee, Flame, right?"

Flame nodded. "Let's go now! Come on, hurry up Leaf!" Berry said excitedly.

"We're going as fast as we're going to go," Leaf grumbled.

"You're going to love hunting!" Berry exclaimed. "Come, follow me. We can get ahead of these slow old cats."

Flame raced after the young trainee, ready to learn how to hunt.